

NSC BRIEFING

20 July 1960

CUBA

- I. Castro regime and Communists continue to tighten grip on Cuba.
  - A. Communist-dominated Latin American Youth Congress to open 26 July in Cuba.
    1. Delegations en route from most Sino-Soviet bloc countries, even North Vietnam, and from Afro-Asian countries, including FLN.
    2. But Peruvian APRA youth group and other anti-Communists plan boycott.
  - B. Havana University now wholly a creature of regime after militant pro-Castro minority seized control and ousted "counterrevolutionary" professors 15 July.
    1. Student federation now to recruit professors from other Latin American countries, virtually assuring a pro-Communist faculty.
  - C. In what press called a "simple but emotional" ceremony on 14 July, Communist daily Hoy was given printing plant vacated by Revolucion, Castro's official newspaper, which has moved to larger quarters.
- II. Regime's links with Communists have aroused protests.
  - A. Church leaders now moving away from earlier vacillation on Castro.
    1. Castro got up from sickbed 18 July to denounce "falangists" among priests who he charged were aiding counterrevolution.
    2. This was his reaction to spontaneous anti-Communist demonstrations by churchgoers on 17 and 18 July.

State Department review completed

3. Government says 18 "counterrevolutionaries" arrested after Sunday's demonstrators set up chant "Cuba si, Russia no" (a contrast to Castro's slogan "Cuba si, Yankees no").
4. Police used gunfire in breaking up second demonstration.

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- B. Director of very popular weekly magazine Bohemia, with wide circulation other Latin American countries, defected 18 July saying he was not permitted to publish anti-Communist article and denouncing Castro for making Cuba a Soviet satellite.
  - C. The American ambassador in Havana believes that Khrushchev's declarations of support have been a serious blow to the Castro regime by removing any doubts as to its Communist orientation.

III. Sino-Soviet bloc continues support.

- A. 14-man Chinese Communist mission, headed by deputy minister foreign commerce, arrived Havana 15 July.
  1. New Chinese sugar purchase, reportedly as high as 500,000 tons is likely. China has already bought 130,000 tons this year.
  2. Havana-Peiping diplomatic relations probably being discussed and may be announced 26 July.
  3. Chinese community in Cuba--about 30,000--is largest in Latin America.
- B. Armed forces chief Raul Castro arrived Moscow from Prague 17 July.
  1. May be concluding arms deal probably discussed in detail in Prague.
  2. He is due in Cairo 22 July.

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IV. Pro-Castro Venezuelan Foreign Minister Arcaya making effort to muster support of Latin American and neutral nations for Cuban regime.

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B. Arcaya and his leftist party closely tied to Castro regime and may be advising it informally of US efforts to win Venezuelan support in the controversy with Cuba.

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C. Betancourt differs with Arcaya on relations with Castro and has recognized that Castro is a serious problem in hemisphere.

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